
**Statement of John M. Dempsey
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In Support of HB 4688**

In 1999, Governor John Engler vetoed HB 4296, a bill to impose licensing requirements on nutritionists and dietitians. Governor Engler's veto rationale said:

"It has not been demonstrated that the public's health, safety or welfare is at risk."

"Enactment would inevitably result in higher health care costs and may cause confusion to the public or lead to unnecessary regulation."

"I would call on the Legislature to review the effectiveness of licensure and regulation. I do not want to give any false hope to the citizens of Michigan that licensure alone brings with it safety."

In 2004, a similar bill that had passed the House died on the Senate floor during the closing days of the legislative session.

In 2006, Governor Jennifer Granholm signed into law a bill even more intrusive than its predecessors, over the opposition of the Michigan Health and Hospital Association and others. For the first time ever, Michiganders engaged in "the integration and application of the scientific principles of food, nutrition, biochemistry, physiology, management, and behavioral and social sciences to achieve and maintain the health of individuals" needed government approval.

Public Act 333 had but one saving grace, sought by nutritionists despite their antipathy to such regulation. The rules to implement these new regulatory burdens could not "diminish competition or exceed the minimum level of regulation necessary to protect the public." Ever since, the rulemaking process has struggled to reach that threshold; the rules remain on the drawing board.

On May 8, 2013, Indiana Governor Mike Pence vetoed a bill creating a license requirement for dietitians. Governor Pence said this:

"Lower taxes and less regulation, including fewer licensing requirements, will mean more jobs for Hoosiers. I am vetoing these licensing bills because I believe they create barriers to the marketplace for Hoosiers and restrict competition."

HB 4688 is a legislative veto of the 2006 law. The House of Representatives approved the bill by an overwhelming vote of 71 to 39 and gave it immediate effect. I respectfully urge your support.